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Henry Edward Hall to W S Hall, n.d. [c.April 1854]

Ded'allah

Murray River

My dear Shakespeare

I have a long letter at home which I began 5 weeks back for you which must wait the next opportunity as a Vessel will sail in a few days for your part I must therefore give you a few brief heads as I expect the postman to pass before I can finish Rob^t Hester has lost his situation Frank and Rob^t were Cattle hunting and spent two nights with me here he has applied to Peel to take some [?lang] on the Oak Plains Letitia was very near her confinement and the fatigue of the journey produced her illness 3 weeks or a month before she expected she was taken ill at the 47 mile tree on the Albany Road and was obliged to remain she was safely delivered of Twins (Boys) Anderton brought her to Wongung in the Bullock cart all right and they informed me when here she and the two Billy Kidds were getting on well Your dear Mama is quite well but rather put out with having a second hatch in the house I have been here for a month getting my wheat thrashed and I have now with much trouble got it to Coopers Mill I have been getting some more land cleared and shall put in 14 acres of corn this season — Frank has taken 60,000 acres on the Blackwood and went down with 4 Bullocks & a Cart 4 Men 4 Natives 4 Dogs 4 Guns they were 3 weeks clearing a road and arriving at their destination he has 27 miles on both sides the river it appears to be a splendid Country for grass and water Flats quite clear of 30 to upwards of 100 Acres Grass up to the knees of the finest quality he has left his men and returned for a Herd of Cattle I expect he will be ready to start in about a fortnight when we shall see no more of him for the next 3 or 4 months the Farm is going on well they have 2 good men and another that is gone with Frank to assist in putting up a house he will return to the Farm as soon as they have put up two temporary huts Frank has a very nice neighbour on the East he has been settled with a large herd for two years and only lost one beast in that time while our losses have exceeded 10 per Cent I think he cannot help but do well Mr Bailey was killed when returning

home after an awful drinking bout of more than a month he fell out of a light Cart under the horses heels and his head was smashed by the kicking of the horse he was entangled in the reins — This is the 7th of Ap^l and we have a very heavy N Wester a great quantity of rain fell last night it has seldom blown so hard or heavyer rain we had a fine rain a week before so that it will be the Farmers fault if they are late with their sowing this season I have had the piece of ground trenched at the top of the Garden and planted with vines the timber is nearly finished sawing to trellis the whole they have made a hogshead of wine Frank tells me next year they may make four and the year after 10 I must conclude as the postman is coming give my love to Henry Sarah Fanny and Geo and accept the same from your affectionate Father
H E Hall